



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Preservation and Conservation Section

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NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Chair



By Per Cullhed
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Last year saw the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti. Slightly more than a year later, the Japan earthquake and tsunami brought disaster to that country. We all know the terrible consequences in

human suffering and indeed, earthquakes stand out as one of the most disastrous forces on this planet. Disaster prevention and planning has been one of the recurrent issues in the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section and the focus of programs at the WLIC conferences. Real life shows that this topic needs to be addressed frequently and also introduced into planning for libraries, especially in

those regions where natural disasters strike most often.

This is my last column for the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section Newsletter so it is a good time to review and reflect on the past four years. My first impression is that time passes quickly and that there are so many more preservation issues that should have been discussed and highlighted. On the other hand, and after having gone through the past four years of this section's programs, one realizes all the good work done by so many section members and colleagues. We could hardly have done more. A review of the past few years shows the following accomplishments.

Disasters and disaster mitigation was the topic for the mid-term meeting in Lausanne in 2007 where the Swiss organisation Cosadoca had a thorough hands-on workshop on this disaster recovery.

In 2007, the Satellite Conference on Mould, Integrated Pest Management and Dust in Collections was held in Durban. Insects, their behaviour and the type of damage they do, were highlighted in one presentation led by David Pinniger. Soon after his lecture, an uninvited but much talked about guest, an enormous cockroach, entered the room and was swiftly scooped up by hand and thrown out of the window by someone used to that type of nuisance, the South African Conservator, Peter Coates. To me, his quick response to this intruder showed a small but clear example of the importance of knowledge and preparedness. He could act immediately whereas I, sitting next to him, was paralyzed by this unfamiliar bug.

A collaborative African preservation effort for the Timbuktu manuscript rich treasure in Mali showed one way forward, through cooperation. At the main conference that year, preservation of African

Collections was the topic for the section and one notable memory was the wealth of audio-visual materials in need of conversion to digital formats. In 2008, in Ottawa and Quebec, preservation research and risk assessment were not only discussed, but the latter subject also included a highly informative workshop. At the main conference, digital preservation was front and center on the agenda with talks on both preservation of physical carriers for digital data, as well as the broader preservation infrastructure needs.

After the Quebec conference a new SIG, or Special Interest Group, (Libraries and Sustainability) was established under the guidance of the Preservation and Conservation Section. The close link between climate change and disasters was the obvious reason for the collaboration between the SIG and this Section.

Italy is, among many things, a country of cultural heritage, and digitization as a means for both preservation and access to cultural heritage collections was the topic for the Milan programme in 2009, where the theme was dispersed collections. The Libraries and Sustainability SIG held their first open session at this meeting. Later, in Rome, robotic digitization and preservation was the theme for one of our sessions for the Satellite Conference, where we also were lucky enough to establish contact with the Vatican Library. The role for libraries and museums was highlighted both by individual presentations and the presence, as a moderator, of the coordinator for the ICOM-CC Working Group for Graphic Documents, Lieve Watteeuw.

In Gothenburg, in 2010, the main theme was preservation and sustainability. Preservation, especially passive environmental solutions in terms of ideal stack climates and reduced energy both as a solution as well as problems was the theme. The Satellite Conference in Uppsala was focused on new scientific methods for the examination of old texts. This topic ranged from DNA to OCR and will continue to see changes into the future.

In 2010 thoughts about widening the interaction with other organisations took a step forward in a joint meeting in Copenhagen with representatives from IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section, LIBER and CERL, two European research library oriented organisations and a representative from ARL, Lisa Carter.

Another collaborative step was taken when the section received liaison status with the European

Committee for Standardization CEN and its technical committee TC 346 for the conservation of cultural property. This is only a sampling of what has been accomplished.

Audio-visual materials and their preservation, is the topic of this year's conference program in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and plans will be set for the 2012 WLIC in Helsinki, as well as a satellite Conference at the National Digitization Centre/Centre for Microfilming and Conservation in Mikkeli.

I would like to take this last opportunity to thank all the past and present section members for their dedication and hard work. Thank you also to all our supporters and fellow sections with whom we have cooperated so closely during the last four years, notably the PAC Core Program, our constant partner in putting preservation and conservation issues on the agenda. We are all working against time; we act in the present time and we prepare for future times. A warm thanks to you all!



### News from IFLA- PAC Core Activity

By Christiane Baryla,  
Director

IFLA PAC Core will hold a satellite meeting in Puerto Rico together with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section. "Collections in Islands, Setting-up and Promoting Cultural Heritage through Networking" will be held at the Museum of Art in San Juan, August 11-12. For the main conference, PAC Core activity will organize a session about an important issue: how to plan for preservation in a context of crisis, in a tropical climate and for developing countries.

*International Preservation News* n°52 theme is tourism and preservation. Remember that IPN is sent free of charge to every person interested in receiving it.

The PAC webpage has more information and new links. So I encourage every colleague interested in Preservation to consult the site (<http://www.ifla.org/en/pac>) and register for our mailing list for the new cyber letter soon to be released. (<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wvsympa.fcgi/info/pac-list>)

## Sustainability SIG

The section also sponsors the Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group (SIG)

*This SIG is concerned with the role of humanity in climate change and the concerns of society and libraries for sustainable development. To learn more see:*

<http://www.ifla.org/en/environmental-sustainability-and-libraries>



### ENSULIB ALL SET FOR THIRD OPEN SESSION IN SAN JUAN

By Veerle Minner,  
Co-convener of the  
Environmental Sustainability  
and Libraries Special Interest  
Group (SIG)

The Environmental Sustainability and Libraries SIG is sailing full speed towards its third IFLA Conference, with port in sight. Some new tools have been implemented since the last update. New audiences are finding the website and membership is growing steadily.

The program is ready, <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/open-session-of-the-environmental-sustainability-and-libraries-sig-in-puerto-rico-august-15th-2>. As the group expands, selecting speakers for the session program is becoming more and more difficult because of larger numbers and the quality of proposals. Next year we will adopt the communication strategies and tools recommended by the convenors of the New Professionals SIG with a Call for Papers to improve our process. This year the convenors benefited from several volunteers who assisted with the selection process: Dr. Leena Siitonen from Finland (currently in Spain), former speakers Sara House (Gothenburg) from Canada and Rosario Toril (Milán) from Spain, Dr. Carmen Jorge and Dr. María Jesús Colmenero, also from Spain. Their names are in the process of being published on the SIG's webpage.

The program will cover a series of topics ranging from Information professionals' role in sustainable development, to the use of renewable energy sources in libraries through environmental literacy at the public library, marketing the green values of a library, and the impact of a green library on its

parent institution. In keeping with one of the objectives of the SIG to represent diverse countries and continents, the proposal selection included that as one of the criteria. This year, we are proud to announce that more participating papers are from additional continents. Speakers are from Nigeria, Chile, the U.S., Finland and Iran, which will provide an interesting mix of experiences and perspectives. We have scheduled time for a Business meeting, and we also have simultaneous interpretation for the program, which is expected to attract a larger audience.

Convenient online collaboration of the volunteers "Program organizing Committee" was done through the use of Google Docs. During the winter, a second mailing list, specially set up for active volunteers, was added to the set of tools of the SIG. One task for volunteers is the SIG's blog. It has been created by the IFLA webmasters, but it has not yet been linked to the SIG's webpage, where we still need to build up worthwhile, relevant content. Contributions are welcome!

Spring and winter brought opportunities for presenting information about the SIG to information professionals in Spain; one at a meeting in Madrid, organized by the Instituto Cervantes at its headquarters

[http://www.cervantes.es/imagenes/File/biblioteca/jornadas/jornada\\_3/programa\\_definitivo.pdf](http://www.cervantes.es/imagenes/File/biblioteca/jornadas/jornada_3/programa_definitivo.pdf)

and the other, as part of the program of the FESABID 2011

<http://www.fesabid.org/malaga2011/informacion-y-documentacion-ambiental>

conference held in Málaga. Over 50 new Spanish members registered for the mailing lists as a result.

We would like express special thanks to Per Cullhed for his support and advice, to Jeanne Drewes for assistance with the SIG column to share our news, and to the P&C Section members for their support.

## Disaster Recovery Updates

By Ornella Foglieni,  
Head of documentary Cultural Heritage,  
Lombardy Region, Italy

### Towards emergency plans in libraries and archives

In Lombardy, Italy there is a regional working group to train people interested in emergency actions for preserving and rescuing Cultural Heritage before, during and after a disaster. Soon there will be

guidelines, developed focusing on “emergency plans” for libraries and archives in Lombardy and to promote general criteria to choose priorities and define methodologies in the preservation of special material held in those institutions.

The working group began three years ago in Milan and is made up of 35 librarians and archivists. I am the coordinator for the working group. Last year after a training period in April, we experimented with the first simulation of a disaster in a library at Milan. I presented a paper at IFLA WLIC 2010 on the topic, still available at [www.ifla.net](http://www.ifla.net).

We based our best practices on the outcome of tests and knowledge of damage caused by floods such as the one in Florence in the past and that of the fire in Amalia Library at Weimar and of course the terrible earthquake in Abruzzo (Italy) last year.

Terrible famous images of these natural catastrophes in the central area of Italy give an idea of the disaster and the restoration and rebuilding necessary to restart services. In such situations we observed always the invaluable involvement of the Civil Protection, its volunteers and first responders such as firemen, policemen. Predominately our training was focused on the role of librarians, archivists and restorers; many of them were—and are still—unprepared for a disaster. For this reason the urgency to train staff and volunteers and to have efficient emergency plans cannot be emphasized enough. This is a duty which, in our opinion, should not be delayed.

For example, in 2009 there was damage to the State Archive of Aquila, but today they have a new building. The saved documents were moved and when necessary restored and now are available for the user. The archive and historic library records were put in safe storage. Documents were recovered by many skilled volunteers, coordinated by the Civil Protection and under the supervision of expert archivists, librarians and restorers sent by the Ministry of Culture and local institutions. Everyone worked together during the first emergency period, and although the triage was successful, now the issue remains how best to approach conservation and restoration of books and documents that were damaged. We are waiting for both solutions and funding from private foundations.

Many libraries and archives were destroyed by the earthquake and documentary material had been recovered in different ways. Our challenge in Lombardy is to give guidelines for emergency plans first for libraries and archives and then in museums.

There are many reasons why damage occurs, human factors or natural calamities or environmental problems but we know that water is the most frequent risk to our libraries and archives. So, we want to avoid risk but most importantly train people and staff on this topic.

An emergency plan is really a complex project, aimed at protecting the safety of people and the collections located in a particular institution. Its goal is, therefore, to prevent possible danger and, when the disaster happens, to carry out all the necessary intervention protocols for the safety of objects and people. Emergency plans, in fact, are applied to both natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes) and events caused by people such as flooding caused by a leaking roof or a broken pipe; fires caused by short circuits or human negligence; damage produced by extensive mould or insect or animal pest attacks are some common examples. They are all phenomena not only preventable but above all avoidable thanks to effective and thought-out conservation and prevention plans put into action.

Some steps were decided by the working group and the Civil Protection of Milan whom we invited to collaborate with us to train volunteers. Obviously, every context has specific characteristics, but each one must be understood and shared by all the library or archive staff. It is indeed the institutional staff that will put into place individual preventive actions every day. I presented the main steps in short courses of one or two days. Additionally a few successful larger seminars on preservation themes were organized, including topics dealing with emergency situations. Furthermore the group decided to focus on ways to help libraries and archives to verify the security of their people and holdings in case of emergency, incorporating input from different professional viewpoints, such as those of conservators, civil protection officers, fire protection brigade etc.

We found other examples in the literature, such as COSADOCA in Switzerland of plans and training. We also considered the impact of climate change during the last century, the increased risks due to more frequent floods, the damage and destruction caused by vandalism and terrorism and wars.

Some tips for steps after the disaster:

- a. if necessary, select an area where the materials will be conserved in a transitional way while waiting for the complete recovery of the location.

b. the materials might require a location space twice as large with respect to the original space, while waiting for the return of the normal environment and the resumption of their original dimensions.

c. Prepare an area to examine the materials and proceed with the evaluation of their state of conservation. The contribution of experts is of primary importance. They will be able to help to evaluate materials in categories unsalvageable, restorable or conserved. Also, in this phase, cataloguing activity is fundamental and the annotation of all records of all the materials submitted to treatment, the locations of the laboratories to which they have been transferred are important.

Instructions must be concise, clear and understandable and written and the plan should be regularly updated, generally once a year.



Figure 1: Training volunteers of Civil Protection of Milan

Lastly, the ICPAL (Istituto Centrale per il Restauro e la conservazione del Patrimonio Archivistico e Librario, Roma) is testing another new methodology with the European project PREM (Prevenzione e Risposta alle Emergenze) translating the online disaster-planning template prepared by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The development of the template was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT). ICPAL has launched the project PREM for developing and sustaining this important tool for Libraries and Archives.

Additionally, a novel initiative has been started which focuses on the development and implementation of e-learning modules - in collaboration with university researchers with the

goal to train responders. - The online course was tested at the University of Chieti and the 'Università Telematica Leonardo da Vinci di Torrevicchia teatina (Chieti, Italy). Documents are available at <http://www.cultura.regione.lombardia.it> See also the n°51 of IFLA PAC *International Preservation News* to read the article of Bertini-Budassi on this topic.



### **In Case You Missed It**

The Japan Library Association has information about libraries and librarians affected by the Tohoku Big Earthquake and Tsunami in English on the website <http://www.jla.or.jp/index-e.html>.

Day by day, new information comes in and is updated.

Yasuyo Inoue,  
Dokkyo University,  
Saitama, Japan



### **Regional Updates**

By François Lenell  
Bureau de Patrimoine (France)

#### **A FRENCH VIDEO ABOUT MAJOR RISKS AND EMERGENCY PLANS**

On the website of the Comité français du Bouclier Bleu ([www.bouclier-bleu.fr](http://www.bouclier-bleu.fr)), is a video entitled «Patrimoine et risques majeurs dans le Grand Sud-Ouest: Midi-Pyrénées, Aquitaine, Languedoc-Roussillon»

This video deals with cultural heritage and major risks in the three regions situated in the southwest part of France: Midi-Pyrénées (with the city of Toulouse), Aquitaine (with the city of Bordeaux), Languedoc-Roussillon (with cities Montpellier and Nîmes).

The film focuses on damage or destruction to cultural heritage by hazards (fire, floods, earthquakes, storms, industrial risks) with the goal to make a large audience (members of the cultural heritage community and the local and regional administration) aware of these major risks.

In the part entitled «Prévenir et agir pour les personnes» (preventing and acting for the population), viewers are reminded that the French law on the «modernization of the Sécurité Civile» (13th of August, 2004) first includes population protection, but also property and environment protection.

The French Sécurité Civile (depending on the Ministry of the Interior) has set up 3 types of plans:

- «Plan de prévention des risques» (plan for risk prevention): phase of anticipation of a disaster
- «Plan ORSEC» (for ORganisation des SECours): deployment of the strategic and operational rescue forces to act after the disaster occurs.
- After the disaster: «plan communal de sauvegarde» (communal plan of protection): intervention of volunteers and communal staff, in order to help the population, and to protect cultural heritage.

The film explains that many French patrimonial institutions (archives, museums, libraries) have their emergency plans and procedures of recovery, with the collaboration of the SDIS (Services départementaux d'incendie et de secours), which are emergency and rescue services depending on the Sécurité Civile.

The so-called «Plans EtaRé» (contraction of «ETAbissements RÉpertoriés») concerning patrimonial buildings are plans which indicate the access, the source of water, and also locate the strategic places of the most precious works to remove and protect in priority order.

The film shows Jocelyne Deschaux (conservateur en chef, in charge of the patrimonial collections of the Municipal Library of Toulouse) and the chief of the SDIS of the department de la Haute Garonne (territorial subdivision with city of Toulouse) discussing the «plan EtaRé» that both of them conceived and realized in close cooperation, for the Bibliothèque d'Etude et du Patrimoine (a building of the 1930s) where the patrimonial collections of the Municipal Library of Toulouse are held.

In the last part of the video, Jocelyne Deschaux restates the mission of the Comité français du Bouclier Bleu, and speaks about the role of its local sections. She specifies that the local section «Midi-Pyrénées» develops emergency plans and escape routes, and works to create an inventory of the locations of patrimonial collections in this region.

1. This video also exists in the form of a DVD created by the Comité français du Bouclier Bleu (section Grand Sud-Ouest) and released in 2008
2. The english translation of SDIS could be «Departmental Fire and Rescue Services». The SDIS are made up with professional firemen. There is a SDIS in every department (territorial subdivision) of the French territory
3. Jocelyne Deschaux also is in charge of the Atelier de restauration Erasme (Toulouse), a public workshop for restoration of written documents held by French territorial libraries
4. Through the initiative of Jocelyne Deschaux a local section of the Comité français du Bouclier Bleu was created in Toulouse in June 2006



## **Training Paradigms Around the Globe**

### **Preservation Training for Community Libraries in South African**

By Douwe Drijfhout  
Preservation Services  
National Library of South Africa

The South African Government awarded a special community libraries grant for the development of public libraries in South Africa. The National Library of South Africa was invited to take part by way of providing training in specialist areas. Staff of community libraries lacks specialist knowledge to care for their collections. Proper care of collections will enable them to expand the lifetime of books. Due to limited budgets school and other textbooks and reference works cannot be replaced easily. These books are often the most used items in collections. More damage is often caused during disasters due to improper planning and ignorance.



It would be in the interest of community libraries in general if staff obtains a basic knowledge of preservation management principles. Training community libraries in all nine provinces was undertaken in the past two years. The provincial library services were encouraged to hold the workshops in rural parts of the provinces to enable smaller libraries to participate. Participation was based on one person per community library to maximize the number of libraries represented. A total of 300 library workers from different libraries and depots participated. Certificates of attendance were issued. Services of a professional book and paper conservator were hired to compile a training manual, assist with drafting of the training plan and to do part of the training.



## Preservation and Conservation Section

### P&C Section Website

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s19/index.htm>



Frédéric Blin,  
Webmaster

Please visit our blog at  
<http://blogs.ifla.org/preservation-and-conservation/>.

The blog is there for you to learn about the section and preservation and conservation activities around the world. The blog can be the most active link between IFLA and those concerned with the preservation of our cultural heritage, and a tool for exchange of views and experiences in this field. Our blog is open to all cultural institutions or individuals for announcements of events, publications or studies, presentation of restoration of particular works or documents, or even of their internal preservation and conservation activities. Be sure to add our RSS-feed to your aggregator and send Frédéric anything you want to share with our community!

Contact: [frederic.blin@bnu.fra](mailto:frederic.blin@bnu.fra)

### New Members Profile



Julie Arnott

Has been the Head of Preservation for the Hesburgh Libraries at the University of Notre Dame for nearly six years. She has overall responsibility for the Commercial Binding and Shelf Preparation Unit, for the Reformatting Unit, and the Conservation Unit. Her duties also include development and implementation of preservation goals, objectives, programs, and policies, oversight of the preservation budget, and for management of staff performance.

Prior to her current appt., she managed Preservation Services for the Southeastern Library Network (now Lyris), a regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals. Arnott managed the Microfilm and Field Service units, provided training and consulting on preservation topics throughout the U.S. Before working for SOLINET, Arnott served as Associate Preservation Librarian at the University of Michigan and as a Mellon Intern for Preservation Administration at Yale University.

### P&C News from the Editors

By Jeanne Drewes Jocelyn Cuming  
Newsletter Co-editor

We will be ending our term on the committee in August, 2011, and also the editorship for the Newsletter. We have very much enjoyed working with all of you both on the committee and in publishing the Newsletter. The brochure for the Section in many languages is now available on the website. Thanks to all who assisted with the translations.

### Translations

Would you be willing to provide a translation of our Newsletter? In the past, newsletters have been available in Russian as well as Spanish and French. To volunteer your expertise, please contact the newsletter editors.



### Transitions

Congratulations to our Webmaster Frédéric Blinn who recently was elected as Member of IFLA Governing Board (2011-2013). He follows on last year's election of Danielle Mincio also a Board member and currently the secretary of the Section.

Vincent Bonnet, co-convenor of the Sustainability SIG has a new position as Director of EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations based in The Hague, The Netherlands.

### Welcome New committee Members

Julie Arnott - new member  
Lynn Brodie - new member  
Maria Sorjonen - new member  
Reinhard Altenhöner - new member

### Committee Members Moving On

Jocelyn Cuming - retiring  
Jeanne Drewes - retiring  
Lorea Elduayen Pereda - retiring  
Per Cullhed - retiring

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